

Environmental Protection Agency

Pt. 58, App. G

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[71 FR 61323, Oct. 17, 2006, as amended at 75 FR 6535, Feb. 9, 2010]

APPENDIX F TO PART 58 [RESERVED]

APPENDIX G TO PART 58—UNIFORM AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) AND DAILY REPORTING

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CALCULATION

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. What Is the AQI?

The AQI is a tool that simplifies reporting air quality to the general public. The AQI incorporates into a single index concentrations of 5 criteria pollutants: ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The scale of the index is divided into general categories that are associated with health messages.

2. Why Report the AQI?

The AQI offers various advantages:

- a. It is simple to create and understand.
- b. It conveys the health implications of air quality.
- c. It promotes uniform use throughout the country.

3. Must I Report the AQI?

You must report the AQI daily if yours is a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) with a population over 350,000.

4. What Goes Into My AQI Report?

- i. Your AQI report must contain the following:
 - a. The reporting area(s) (the MSA or subdivision of the MSA).
 - b. The reporting period (the day for which the AQI is reported).
 - c. The critical pollutant (the pollutant with the highest index value).
 - d. The AQI (the highest index value).
 - e. The category descriptor and index value associated with the AQI and, if you choose to report in a color format, the associated color. Use only the following descriptors and colors for the six AQI categories:

TABLE 1—AQI CATEGORIES

For this AQI	Use this descriptor	And this color ¹
0 to 50	“Good”	Green.
51 to 100	“Moderate”	Yellow.
101 to 150	“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”.	Orange.
151 to 200	“Unhealthy”	Red.
201 to 300	“Very Unhealthy”	Purple.
301 and above	“Hazardous”	Maroon. ¹

¹Specific colors can be found in the most recent reporting guidance (Guideline for Public Reporting of Daily Air Quality—Air Quality Index (AQI)).

- f. The pollutant specific sensitive groups for any reported index value greater than 100. Use the following sensitive groups for each pollutant:

When this pollutant has an index value above 100 * * *	Report these sensitive groups * * *
Ozone	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.
PM _{2.5}	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
PM ₁₀	People with respiratory disease are the group most at risk.